

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01

OIC-02 /105 W

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P R 201345Z SEP 75

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 493

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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PASS AGRICULTURE AND H CODEL

EO: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD GATT

SUBJ: MTN SEPTEMBER 22 GROUP AGRICULTURE MEETING

REF: STATE 224255

1. RABOT TELEPHONED FRIDAY EVENING TO ADVISE THAT 113 COMMITTEE MEETING IN BRUSSELS HAD GONE WELL AND THAT BASIC AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING AGRICULTURE ALONG LINES OF UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK.

2. RABOT SAID HE HAD FELT THE NEED TO BE MORE PRECISE (READ HE EMPHASIZED TO 113 COMMITTEE) THAT NEGOTIATIONS IN GROUP AGRICULTURE ON AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS OF MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS WERE ENTITLED TO BE AUTONOMOUS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON INsofar AS, FOR EXAMPLE, IT PERMITS GROUP AGRICULTURE TO TAKE UP THE SUBJECT OF THE STANDARDS CODE AND DECIDE FOR ITSELF WHAT ASPECTS THEREOF WARRANT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIGHT OF PECULIAR AGRICULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS. IT IS COMPETENT

THEN TO NEGOTIATE ON THESE SUBJECTS AND REACH CONCLUSIONS. ITS ACTIONS ARE IN THAT SENSE AUTONOMOUS.

3. MTN DEL EMPHASIZED THAT FOREGOING WAS ACCEPTABLE ONLY IN CONTEXT OF FURTHER ASPECTS OF WASHINGTON UNDERSTANDING WHICH OBLIGED GROUP AGRICULTURE TO COMMUNICATE ON TIMELY AND CONTINUOUS BASIS THE RESULTS OF ITS DISCUSSIONS TO NTM AND TARIFFS GROUPS. RABOT REAFFIRMED THIS UNDERSTANDING, THOUGH MTN DEL GOT IMPRESSION EC MAY STILL BE ATTRACTED TO HAVING REPORTS TRANSMITTED TO TNC. MTN DEL MADE CLEAR THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO USG AND NOT ENCOMPASSED IN WASHINGTON UNDERSTANDING.

4. RABOT SAID HE DID NOT EMPHASIZE TO COMMISSION THE PROCEDURAL STEPS THAT WOULD BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN GROUP AGRICULTURE AND FUNCTIONAL GROUP (I.E. JOINT MEETING TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES). FELT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO EMPHASIZE AT THIS STAGE THIS PROCEDURAL ASPECT AND THAT HE PREFERRED TO KEEP THIS AREA GENERAL, STATING ONLY THAT EFFORTS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE TO WORK JOINTLY BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND NON-AGRICULTURE ON ISSUES WHERE DIFFERENCES ARISE.

5. IN ONLY DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON UNDERSTANDING, RABOT SAID EC WISHED REPORTS OF QR CONSULTATIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO BE TRANSMITTED ONLY TO GROUP AGRICULTURE (WHICH IN TURN WOULD BE OBLIGED TO COMMUNICATE THEM TO QR SUBGROUP) RATHER THAN BEING TRANSMITTED SIMULTANEOUSLY TO QR SUBGROUP AND GROUP AGRICULTURE. MTN DEL AGREED TO THIS MODIFICATION AND WILL ENSURE THAT PROCEDURE PROVIDED FOR TIMELY TRANSMITTAL OF AGRICULTURAL QR CONSULTATION RESULTS FROM GROUP AGRICULTURE TO QR SUBGROUP.

6. RABOT SUGGESTED BOTH U.S. AND EC AVOID USE OF THE TERM QUOTE FUNCTIONAL GROUPS UNQUOTE TO DESCRIBE TARIFF AND NTM GROUPS AS THIS IMPLIED INFERIORITY OF GROUP AGRICULTURE. MTN DEL WAS NON-COMMITTAL IN RESPONSE BUT BELIEVES THAT SEMANTIC ISSUE CAN BE AVOIDED BY SIMPLY REFERRING TO TARIFF AND NTM GROUPS BY NAME.

7. AMBASSADOR GREENWALD ADVISED THAT SOURCES IN BRUSSELS REPORTED THE OUTCOME OF 113 COMMITTEE MEETING WAS TO GIVE RABOT AND EC NEGOTIATORS CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE IN IMPLEMENTING WASHINGTON UNDERSTANDING. RABOT APPARENTLY ADVISED COMMITTEE THAT UNDERSTANDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON METHODOLOGY FOR PROCEEDING IN GROUP AGRICULTURE REACHED IN WASHINGTON, GAVE EXPLANATION WHICH COMMISSION DID NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND, ACKNOWLEDGED FRENCH CONCERN ABOUT INTEGRITY OF AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS AND GOT APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITHOUT FURTHER RESTRICTIONS.

8. MTN DEL WILL MEET ON MONDAY WITH JACQUOT AND PIZZUTI OF EC PRIOR TO AFTERNOON GROUP AGRICULTURE MEETING.

9. JAPANESE DELEGATION EXPRESSED TWO RESERVATIONS TO WASHINGTON UNDERSTANDING. (A) THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO COMMIT TO USE OF COMMON PROCEDURES IN GROUP AGRICULTURE (I.E., THE SAME PROCEDURES AS IN TARIFF OR NTM GROUPS) ON SUBJECTS THAT MIGHT IN THE FUTURE BE ADDED TO GROUP AGRICULTURE WORKING PROGRAM. THEY HAD NO SPECIFIC POINTS OF CONCERN BUT SIMPLY DO NOT WISH TO RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF MODIFIED PROCEDURES AT SOME FUTURE TIME. (B) THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT GROUP AGRICULTURE ANALYZING THE TARIFF-CUTTING HYPOTHESES TABLED FOR DISCUSSION IN TARIFF GROUP, POINTING OUT THAT THEIR PROPOSAL HAD BEEN FORMULATED ONLY WITH INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS IN MIND. THIS IS NOT UNEXPECTED GIVEN TRADITIONAL JAPANESE OPPOSITION TO A SINGLE TARIFF-CUTTING FORMULA APPLIED TO BOTH INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE. WALKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, AGRICULTURE, MEETING REPORTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MTNGE07221
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750327-0431
From: MTN GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750932/aaaabbsv.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 224255
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MTN SEPTEMBER 22 GROUP AGRICULTURE MEETING
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006